

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2003

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 10, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 67

Introduced by Assembly Member Bermudez

March 20, 2003

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 67—Relative to ~~Artesia~~ DES Portuguese Hall and Little India in the City of Artesia.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 67, as amended, Bermudez. City of Artesia's DES Portuguese Hall and Little India.

This bill would designate specified exits on State Highway Route 91 as the route for the designation of ~~Artesia~~ DES Portuguese Hall and Little India *in the City of Artesia*, and would request the Department of Transportation to determine the costs of appropriate plaques and markers and, upon receipt of donations, to erect these plaques and markers.

Fiscal committee: yes.

1 WHEREAS, The Divino Espirito Santo (DES) was founded in
2 1927 to promote the traditions of the Portuguese in Artesia, and
3 came about after the founding of the Holy Family Catholic Church
4 in 1925 by the Portuguese Community and by its first Pastor,
5 Father Manuel Vicente; and

6 WHEREAS, The first Festa do Divino Espirito Santo was held
7 in 1927. Mass was said at the Holy Family Church followed by a

1 parade to the same site where the Artesia DES Hall is today. Circus
2 tents were used as a temporary shelter to serve the “Sopas do
3 Espirito Santo” until the DES Hall was built in 1935; and

4 WHEREAS, The Holy Family Church was subsequently
5 moved to its present day site in 1960; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1974, the Artesia DES went through a massive
7 reorganization due to the ideas of a growing number of immigrants
8 that came primarily from the Azores who wanted to become more
9 active in the community. This reorganization included gathering
10 paying members to the club, writing up by-laws, forming a general
11 assembly of members, and electing a new board of directors
12 yearly; and

13 WHEREAS, This reorganization helped make Artesia DES one
14 of the most successful Portuguese societies in California; and

15 WHEREAS, In 1983, Artesia DES Hall went through a massive
16 renovation. This remodeling included a new chapel, a new band
17 room, a new soccer club, a new dining hall, and a renovated bull
18 arena; and

19 WHEREAS, The main goal of the Artesia DES is to promote
20 Portuguese pride and heritage through the many diverse activities
21 held year round. The organization’s main function nowadays is to
22 maintain the Artesia DES Band and the Artesia DES Soccer Club;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, These two groups help the throng of Portuguese
25 youth get involved in their community and promote leadership
26 skills that will promote Artesia DES well into the future; and

27 WHEREAS, This site is dedicated to all the men, women, and
28 children who helped build up the Portuguese community in
29 Artesia through this organization as well as those who are
30 maintaining it today; and

31 WHEREAS, Most of the Portuguese immigrants in Artesia
32 (likely to be more than 85 percent), are from the island of Terceira,
33 Azores. You can also find some from Pico, Faial, San Jorge, San
34 Miguel and mainland Portugal; and

35 WHEREAS, Celebrations in the Artesia DES Hall have their
36 roots in religious tradition, but you will find there are people from
37 all walks of life; and

38 WHEREAS, At the Artesia DES Hall, you can be entertained
39 by musical marching and concert bands, bloodless bullfights, “as
40 velhas,” an ancient song art form popular in Europe since the 13th



Century, and different groups that perform a mixture of Portuguese and American music; and

WHEREAS, Artesia's Pioneer Boulevard merchant district was a historic settling area for Indian American immigrants, in which they created a unique extra-national community in the early 1970's; and

WHEREAS, In 1970, the affordable rents helped facilitate an increase in Indian shops; and

WHEREAS, These immigrants joined with local populations of Koreans, Chinese, Dutch, and Portuguese in small business enterprises, where they became vital to the establishment and growth of the City of Artesia specialty shops; and

WHEREAS, The Indian shops became a source of revenue for the City of Artesia; and

WHEREAS, As Indians grew in the social and economic ranks of the city, many moved around neighboring cities close to Little India; and

WHEREAS, Little India today is a thriving shopping area that has become an example of the multicultural diversity in Los Angeles County; and

WHEREAS, The "Taste of India," a cultural event featuring Indian performances, food, clothing, and jewelry, was established in 2000 and was cosponsored by the City of Artesia, the Artesia Chamber of Commerce, and the Indian merchants as a day-long celebration to coincide with India's Independence Day; and

WHEREAS, The "Taste of India" was intended to showcase the City of Artesia that has unofficially become known as "Little India" due to the multitude of Indian businesses located along Pioneer Boulevard; and

WHEREAS, In 2003, the Artesia Chamber of Commerce is considering expanding the "Taste of India" into a two-day celebration in October to coincide with Diwali, the Festival of Lights celebration; and

WHEREAS, The recognition of Artesia DES Portuguese Hall and Little India as destinations through the placement of freeway markers and plaques will encourage the continued growth and redevelopment of these important components of the history of Artesia; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature hereby designates the

1 Pioneer Boulevard exit on State Highway Route 91 north and the
2 Pioneer Boulevard exit on State Highway Route 91 south near
3 downtown Artesia, as the defined routes for the destination of
4 Artesia DES Portuguese Hall and Little India; and be it further

5 *Resolved*, That the Department of Transportation is requested to
6 determine the cost of appropriate plaques and markers, consistent
7 with the signing requirements of the state highway system,
8 showing this designation, and upon receiving donations from
9 nonstate sources, to erect these plaques and markers; and be it
10 further

11 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
12 of this resolution to the Department of Transportation and to the
13 author for appropriate distribution.

